

Senate Resolution 101 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY McCOY

1 A Resolution supporting the federal government's
2 proposed rule changes that would restrict the sale
3 of African ivory across state lines.

4 WHEREAS, census numbers indicate that an average of
5 96 elephants were killed each day in the African wild
6 in 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, ivory-seeking poachers killed approximately
8 100,000 African elephants in just three years
9 according to a study that provides the first reliable
10 continent-wide estimates of illegal poaching; and

11 WHEREAS, during 2011 alone, roughly 1 of every 12
12 African elephants was killed by a poacher; and

13 WHEREAS, in central Africa, the hardest-hit
14 region of the continent, the African forest elephant
15 population has declined by 65 percent since 2002; and

16 WHEREAS, the demand for ivory has increased
17 significantly, driving up prices, most notably in China
18 and elsewhere in Asia, but also here in the United
19 States, and helping keep black market prices for ivory
20 high in Africa; and

21 WHEREAS, the federal government has proposed to
22 revise the rule for the African elephant promulgated
23 under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act,
24 to provide a near complete regulatory ban on ivory
25 imports, exports, and interstate sales in the United
26 States, which would close loopholes that have allowed
27 smugglers to disguise ivory from recently killed
28 elephants as antiques; and

1 WHEREAS, the federal government's proposed rule
2 changes would help end the illegal ivory trade in the
3 United States and the federal government should use
4 American intelligence agencies to track and target
5 those who benefit from illegal wildlife trafficking,
6 a trade estimated to generate \$8 to \$10 billion in
7 revenue each year; NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate joins
9 the federal government's global fight to counter
10 the terrorist organizations, rebel groups, and
11 international criminal syndicates that profit from the
12 international illegal wildlife trade; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate supports the
14 federal government's proposed rule changes to section
15 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act, which are necessary
16 to stop the illegal ivory trade and help prevent the
17 senseless death and extinction of elephants in the
18 African wild.